

How the Nation's Press Views GOVERNMENT'S SEIZURE OF STEEL

The government's illegal seizure of the steel mills has stirred the greatest constitutional issue since the "court packing plan" of 1937.

Newspapers throughout the United States have commented vigorously on this issue. Following are typical excerpts from their editorial comment:

Mark this day and date on your calendar.

It is the day on which, without the formality of an election, the government of the United States ceased to be a government by and for the people and came into the open frankly and nakedly as a labor dictatorship.

The Indianapolis (Ind.) News

A stop must be put to executive assertion and exercise of powers not clearly belonging to it or else our whole constitutional system is doomed to destruction.

Detroit (Mich.) Free Press

If the President gets away with what amounts to virtual confiscation of the steel industry, no other business in the United States is safe from the Socialistic planners.

Topeka (Kan.) Daily Capital

President Truman has precipitated a constitutional and political crisis that reaches well beyond the immediate strife and dangers of inflation. His seizure of the steel industry raises constitutional issues as fundamental as the Roosevelt court-packing plan of 1937.

The Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.

President Truman stood before the American people Tuesday night and proclaimed himself a dictator, as far as the nation's steel industry is concerned.

The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio

Last night (Harry Truman) put the government into the steel business without authority of Congress or the people, ignoring the law adopted by Congress for dealing with this kind of emergency.

Chicago Daily News

President Truman's seizure of the steel industry will probably go down in history as one of the most highhanded acts committed by an American President.

The Washington (D.C.) Post

The President has demonstrated a willingness to place the vast, war-inflated powers of government on the side of a great labor union in its demand for higher wages and the union shop. He has done this without going through intermediary steps, such as invoking the Taft-Hartley law's cooling-off period.

Newark (N.J.) Star Ledger

Mr. Truman should not be allowed dictatorially to by-pass legislation in force and make his own law. The precedent he is attempting to establish would allow the President to take over any property, institution or concern as he desired.

The Boston Herald

In our view the President has chosen untrustworthy weapons in his proclaimed defense of the national welfare, and has tried to arrogate to himself authority that is not his to assume.

San Francisco Chronicle

The President has authored a new principle in American law; the Chief Executive may in time of peace and without any specific authority seize the property of any party that disagrees with the government's "recommendation" in an industrial dispute.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

To get to the Nazi-Fascist character of Truman's act:

He sprung this seizure after by-passing the Taft-Hartley law, under which the strike could have been legally delayed for 80 days while the unions and companies bargained. He attempted to justify the grab under a vaguely asserted constitutional power to protect the national welfare.

Daily News, New York, N.Y.

The President is behaving like a dictator, ignoring the lawful procedures set up by the Congress for government intervention in strikes. If he gets away with this, there's no telling what might be the next step in confiscation of private property and infringement of personal liberties.

The Cleveland News

STEEL COMPANIES IN THE WAGE CASE
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